

Khurramova Nargiza Abduraxmanovna

Teacher of the Department of Interfaculty

Foreign Languages of Termez State University

NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS FORMED ON THE BASIS OF PROPER NOUNS

Abstract: This article examines the phraseological units formed with the participation of proper nouns, emphasizing their national-cultural specificity. Through examples from English and Uzbek, the study explores how names of historical figures, literary characters, and mythological beings contribute to the formation of idiomatic expressions that reflect the worldview, values, and cultural memory of a given people.

Key words: Phraseological units, proper nouns, cultural identity, national heroes, historical context, idioms, metaphorical meaning, linguistic expression, translation challenges, intercultural communication.

НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ЕДИНИЦ, ОБРАЗОВАННЫХ НА ОСНОВЕ ИМЕН СОБСТВЕННЫХ

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматриваются фразеологические единицы, образованные при участии имен собственных, подчеркивая их национально-культурную специфику. На примерах из английского и узбекского языков изучается, как имена исторических деятелей, литературных персонажей и мифологических существ способствуют формированию идиоматических выражений, отражающих мировоззрение, ценности и культурную память данного народа.

Ключевые слова: фразеологические единицы, имена собственные, культурная идентичность, национальные герои, исторический контекст, идиомы, метафорическое значение, языковое выражение, трудности перевода, межкультурная коммуникация.

Introduction. Phraseological units are an essential component of a language's expressive means, reflecting not only linguistic structures but also cultural identity. Among them, those formed on the basis of proper nouns carry rich historical, cultural, and emotional connotations. These idioms are strongly marked with national specificity and often resist direct translation due to their culturally embedded meanings. Phraseological units — also known as idioms, set expressions, or fixed phrases — form a vital part of any language. They enhance its richness, flexibility, and expressive power. Idioms encapsulate meanings that go beyond the literal interpretation of individual words. They often rely on historical, social, or cultural contexts to convey particular shades of meaning. Among these, phraseological units formed with proper nouns (e.g., names of people, places, events) are especially rich in cultural and emotional undertones.

Proper nouns — names of people, places, mythological figures, or literary characters — often become the basis for stable idiomatic expressions. These names, when used in phraseological units, are usually associated with specific qualities or symbolic meanings derived from historical events, popular literature, religion, or collective memory.

Examples in English include:

- *He's a real Romeo* – referring to a passionate lover, based on Shakespeare's character.

- *To meet one's Waterloo* – to face a final, crushing defeat, based on Napoleon's loss at Waterloo.

In Uzbek:

- *Nasriddin afandi yo'li bilan hal qilish* – to resolve something with wit or trickery, based on the popular folk character Nasriddin Afandi.

- *Temur kabi qat'iy* – showing firmness and strength, linked to the historical figure Amir Temur.

National and Cultural Markedness. Phraseological units with proper names reflect the unique cultural and historical experience of each nation. These

expressions are closely tied to national heroes, writers, politicians, or legendary figures. The choice of these proper nouns reveals which figures are culturally significant or ideologically symbolic within that nation. The presence of a proper name in a phraseological unit is rarely arbitrary. Rather, it is the result of a collective cultural process whereby certain historical or fictional figures are elevated to emblematic status. These figures may include national heroes (e.g., Temur in Uzbek, George Washington in American English), renowned writers (e.g., Pushkin, Shakespeare), political leaders (Churchill, Lenin), religious figures (Jesus, Muhammad), or mythological and folkloric characters (Don Quixote, Nasriddin Afandi). When embedded in idioms, these proper names acquire metaphorical meanings that resonate strongly within the cultural and historical context of the respective language community.

For example, in English, the idiom to meet one's Waterloo signifies a decisive or ultimate defeat, derived from Napoleon Bonaparte's historical loss in the Battle of Waterloo. In Uzbek, an expression like Afandi qilganidek qilish implies solving a situation cleverly or humorously, referencing the witty folk figure Nasriddin Afandi. Such expressions demonstrate how phraseological units serve as linguistic crystallizations of a nation's collective consciousness.

For example:

- In English-speaking cultures, *a Benedict Arnold* refers to a traitor, based on the historical American figure.
- In Russian, *как Обломов* (like Oblomov) means someone lazy and indecisive, derived from Goncharov's novel character.
- In Uzbek culture, references to historical and literary figures such as *Alpomish* or *Ulug'bek* evoke bravery, intelligence, or nobility.

These idioms provide insights into the values and narratives prioritized by each culture — heroism, betrayal, cleverness, or love — and how these values are preserved linguistically.

Linguistic and Pragmatic Features. Proper noun-based idioms function as condensed narratives. They often rely on shared cultural knowledge and background awareness. Pragmatically, such expressions serve to categorize people or actions quickly, often with an evaluative or emotional undertone. Their usage can signal in-group belonging or serve as a rhetorical tool in discourse.

Moreover, many of these idioms are non-compositional and metaphorical, making them challenging for learners or translators. Their national coloring makes it essential to study them within cultural-linguistic contexts.

Cross-Linguistic Comparison. While some phraseological units are culture-specific, others may have near-equivalents in different languages, often adapted to the respective national context. For example:

English	Uzbek Equivalent	Meaning
A Scrooge	Bachil Bo‘richi	Stingy person
A Don Juan	Qizboz, mahmadona	Womanizer
To carry the cross	Ko‘tarib yurmoq	To endure a burden
Herculean task	Temurga xos ish	A task requiring great effort

This comparison highlights the presence of universal concepts (love, struggle, betrayal) framed within national-symbolic expressions.

Conclusion. Phraseological units formed on the basis of proper nouns are vivid examples of how language embodies the historical memory and cultural identity of a people. These expressions serve not only as linguistic tools but also as cultural signifiers. Understanding their national characteristics is crucial in language learning, translation, and intercultural communication. The study of such idioms opens doors to deeper cultural literacy and awareness in both native and foreign language contexts.

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